What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for managing interest-based information, comprising the steps of:

receiving data about a plurality of stakeholders, a plurality of issues and a plurality of interests in relation to a transaction;

creating links among said plurality of stakeholders, said plurality of issues and said plurality of interests, said links indicating relationships with regard to said transaction;

receiving rating data rating each of said plurality of stakeholders in importance with respect to said transaction and each of said plurality of issues with respect to each of said plurality of stakeholders thereby producing a hierarchy of interests;

receiving a plurality of actions related to said transaction, said actions including effects data relating to said interests; and,

analyzing said plurality of actions according to a provided strategy to produce a plan having one or more of said plurality of actions effecting said strategy in said transaction.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying said stakeholders, issues and interests in an interest chart.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said interest chart shows stakeholders and issues arranged in response to said rating data.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one said stakeholder is a person.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one said stakeholder is a legal entity.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one said stakeholder is a group of people.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said issues are components of said transaction.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said interests are outcomes related to said plurality of issues.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said transaction is a negotiation.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said transaction is a strategy planning session.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of creating links further comprises the steps of:

identifying an anchor stakeholder in said plurality of stakeholders on each said issue; and,

comparing interests of non-anchor stakeholders to interests of said anchor stakeholder to determine interests with respect to said anchor stakeholder.

12.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing said plurality of actions further comprises the step of determining whether a particular action of said plurality is compatible with the other actions.

13.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing said plurality of actions further comprises the step of determining whether the effects of a particular action of said plurality of actions are cumulative with the effects of another action of said plurality of actions.

14.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing said plurality of actions further comprises the step of determining whether a particular action of said plurality of actions overrides another action of said plurality of actions.

15.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of identifying one or more fighting alternatives if said analyzing step does not produce a plan acceptable to at least one stakeholder of said plurality of stakeholders.

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16. An interest-based data management system, comprising:

a) a first database to store data about a plurality of stakeholders and issues in a transaction, said data including interests of each said plurality of stakeholders with regard to each said plurality of issues;

b) a second database to store data about possible actions to be taken in said transaction to satisfy said interests, said actions data including the effects of said actions on said interests; and

c) a processor to provide an optimized course of action, said optimized plan having a subset of said actions, said subset of actions determined from said data on effects of said actions on said interests.

17. The interest-based data management system of claim 16 wherein said transaction is a negotiation.

18. The interest-based data management system of claim 16 wherein said transaction is a strategy session.

19. The interest-based data management system of claim 16 wherein said transaction is a mediation.

20. The interest-based data management system of claim 16 wherein said first database further stores importance ratings of said interests with respect to each said stakeholder.

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21. The interest-based data management system of claim 16 wherein said first database further stores importance ratings of each said stakeholder with respect to said transaction.

22. An interest-based data management system, comprising:

a) a first database to store data about a plurality of stakeholders and issues in a transaction, said data including interests of each said plurality of stakeholders with regard to each said plurality of issues;

b) a second database to store data about actions to be taken to satisfy said interests, said actions data including the effects of said actions on said interests;   and

c) a processor to provide an interest chart from data stored in said first database and said second database, said interest chart showing consequences of said actions with regard to said issues and said plurality of stakeholders.

23. The interest-based data management system of claim 22 wherein said transaction is a negotiation.

24. The interest-based data management system of claim 22 wherein said transaction is a strategy planning session.

25. The interest-based data management system of claim 22 wherein said first database further stores relationships among said interests.

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26. The interest-based data management system of claim 22 wherein said data of said second database further comprises cumulative effects of said actions on the interests of said stakeholders.

27. An interest-based data management system, comprising:

a) a first database to store data about a plurality of stakeholders and issues in a transaction, said data including interests of said plurality of stakeholders with regard to said plurality of issues and the importance of said interests with respect to said stakeholders;

b) a second database to store data about links among said stakeholders, issues and interests, said data indicating relationships with regard to said transaction; and

c) a processor to provide an interest chart from said data stored in said databases, said interest chart showing said plurality of stakeholders and issues so that issues on which stakeholders have interests in common are grouped together and issues on which stakeholders have interests opposed are grouped together, and showing the importance of said interests to said stakeholders and showing relationships among said interests.

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